

## ***THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS***

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, N.Y. 10025 ♦ (212) 866-6378

Website: ThreeParksDems.org ♦ Email: ThreeParksDems@aol.com

### ***President***

Daniele Gerard

### ***Editor***

Lauren Williams  
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### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

# **MAY 11, 2011**

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: HEALTH CARE UNDER ATTACK: the Assault on Health Care Reform, Medicaid and Medicare—Mark Hannay, Director, Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign  
ENDORSEMENT VOTE for DISTRICT LEADERS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

## **AGENDA**

**7:45 PM Sign-in**  
**8 PM Call to Order**

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Health Care Under Attack
4. Endorsement of District Leaders (ballot box open from 8:30 to 9:30)
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

## **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2011**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 7 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, May 25, 2011 [NOTE ADD'L MTG DATE]**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 8, 2011**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

April's meeting on juvenile justice reform was a huge success. Thanks to our fine panel of speakers — Victoria Sammartino of Voices UnBroken, Estelle Strykers-Santiago of the Manhattan DA's Crime Strategies Unit, and Martin Caba of The Dome Project — who each provided powerful insights into various aspects of this critical issue. I'd also like to thank the membership and guests for asking such thoughtful questions.

This month, Three Parks is holding two meetings: on **May 11**, we will welcome Mark Hannay, Director, Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign, a citywide coalition of community groups and labor unions founded in 1993 that advocates for fundamental health care reform and universal health care. Hannay's talk, entitled "Health Care Under Attack," will include remarks and a Q&A about the Republican assault on health care reform, Medicaid, and Medicare. Hannay coordinates the Health Care for America Now campaign in New York City, and is a member of the Steering Committee of Health Care for All New York, a consortium of groups across the state working for health care reform in New York. Mark also co-chairs the New York Network for Action on Medicare and Social Security and serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Metro Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program. Three Parks will also hold endorsement votes for District Leaders Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty.

On **May 25**, there will be a second Three Parks meeting to vote to endorse candidates for Civil Court. (The judicial screening panel will not have reported out the candidates in time for the May 11 meeting.) We have also invited some of our local elected officials to update us on what they are doing in the state legislature and City Council; Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell and Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito have confirmed their attendance.

At the time of this writing, the Three Parks 36th Annual Benefit has not yet taken place, but it promises to be a successful event honoring Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Noah Gotbaum, President of Community Education Council, District 3, and Mark Diller, Chair of CB7's Youth, Education & Libraries Committee. We hope you all will have enjoyed yourselves!

## District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

### After the Census — Redistricting

What will be the impact of the 2010 census on the political representation of the Three Parks Independent Democrats area? We will not know until the lines are redrawn over the next eighteen months by the New York state legislature's

state-congressional redistricting task force and the city mayoral/city council redistricting commission. The process is starting late this year. In 2001 the first round of legislative redistricting hearings was held in May 2001 throughout the state. This year not one has been scheduled yet.

But we do have the 2010 census data for the 69<sup>th</sup> NY State Assembly District (O'Donnell), the 30<sup>th</sup> NY State Senate District (Perkins), the 31<sup>st</sup> NY State Senate District (Espallat), and the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Rangel) which will indicate some of the changes that will occur.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Rangel) will be altered for several reasons. First, New York State will lose two congressional seats. Second, due to nation's population growth each congressional district will be drawn to contain a population of 717,700 versus the current average population of 654,000. The 15<sup>th</sup> CD population decreased by over 15,000 since 2000 so the prospective 15<sup>th</sup> CD would have to expand its area to include 78,000 new constituents. In addition, New York County is one of three New York City counties (Kings and the Bronx are the others) whose redistricting is subject to review by the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division in order to comply with the Voting Rights Act. The traditional Harlem district is now 47 percent Hispanic.

Our most local district, the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, lost 134 residents over the past ten years. In comparison, the 67<sup>th</sup> AD, (the west side 50's-80's — represented by Linda Rosenthal) grew by 6,700 constituents, and the 75<sup>th</sup> AD (the west side 20's-50's — Dick Gottfried) had the largest increase of any district in the state — over 21,000 additional residents. In the State Senate, the 30<sup>th</sup> SD (Perkins) gained 7,306 residents since 2000 while the 31<sup>st</sup> SD (Espallat) lost 19,000.

The state assembly, state senate, and congressional redistricting process is specified by the state constitution. The city redistricting process is specified in the city charter. There will be a series of hearings throughout the city and state during which preliminary redistricting plans will be presented. We will notify Three Parks members of the hearings in Manhattan when they are scheduled. Please come to testify in support of districts that are compact and representative of the neighborhood.

The state redistricting process must start by September 2011. Final state and federal redistricting plans must be approved by May 2012.

Regarding the city redistricting, the fifteen members of the city redistricting commission will be selected by June 2012. The final plan for the city council districts will be submitted to the city council by September 2012.

At the Three Parks June 8 club meeting, a panel of experts will discuss the redistricting process in more detail.

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This year both District Leaders and County Committee Members are up for election. For our County Committee members, this year there is an added incentive to run for re-election. The redistricting process increases the possibility that county committee will play a role in selecting some of our next representatives.

## Shutdown or Charade?

By Steve Max

We all breathed a great sigh of relief that there would be no shutdown of the most important government on earth and the only government we Americans have. The question now remains, would the shutdown have really been a catastrophe, or was it more of a charade to provide an excuse for still more compromises with the Right? The truth probably lies somewhere in between, but increasingly I find myself asking is it possible that what appear as compromises are actually things the President would have wanted anyway?

A quick look at the government's shutdown plans sheds some light on what was and was not at stake here. Note that some ongoing government functions had already been funded in past budgets or budget resolutions. Agencies such as Social Security have their own revenue coming in and don't require annual approval; still other agencies have fees from issuing permits and selling services. In some cases, funding seems to appear by magic. The result is that a government shutdown is not exactly what it sounds like.

The broadest dimension of the shutdown impact is that roughly 43 percent of federal employees would have been furloughed according to reports in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* of April 8 and 9. My own very rough estimate is that staff would have been retained during a shutdown to administer about 80 percent of the federal budget. Published plans show that the big ticket items would have been affected very little. All present and future wars would have gone on as scheduled. The Army, CIA, FBI, Homeland Security, other enforcement agencies, and US embassies would have kept working. Defense contractors would have been paid during a shutdown according to a Department of Defense web posting. Oddly though, funeral payments for soldiers killed in combat would have been suspended during the shutdown. It appears that someone was looking for a potential headline here, but who?

Also unaffected would have been Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans Administration, although new enrollments would have been delayed. There would have

been little impact on air traffic controllers, FEMA, the Postal Service, the National Weather Service, the Patent Office, and the Federal Highway Administration. The functions of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission related to reactor safety would have continued.

According to the Department of Agriculture's contingency plan, health-related functions such as food inspections and import/export inspections would have been carried out. Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition and WIC programs would have gone on. The Department of Transportation planned to keep two thirds of its employees working through the shutdown.

At the other extreme, 92 percent of the Department of Education's staff would have been furloughed. At the Government Accountability Office, it would have been 99 percent. Health and Human Services would have put 62 percent of its staff on furlough. Many smaller agencies would have been shutdown altogether, as would national parks and passport offices. Obviously, this list is far from comprehensive, but it gives an idea of what a shutdown might have looked like.

A shutdown would certainly have caused many federal workers and ordinary citizens a great deal of pain, and we can't really estimate where the political fallout would have landed. It would not, however, have been catastrophic. Was it worth the price Obama paid to avoid it, a \$38 billion cut in programs people rely upon? I doubt it. What might a truly courageous progressive leader have done? Refused to shut down the government and kept it going in defiance of the Republicans. Match the threat of a shutdown crisis with the threat of a continuation crisis. Let the Right Wing squeal that the President of the United States was keeping the government in operation just as we elected him to do. After all, the Constitution says that "he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed...."

Three Parks sends best wishes for speedy recoveries to club members Aramis Gomez and Virginia Graham.

## Proposed Sweatshop Free Upper West Side Resolution Up for Vote

By Barbara Lee

A coalition of neighborhood organizations is asking restaurants, nail salons and other businesses to pledge to (1) be sweatshop free, (2) promise to uphold decent labor conditions for the enrichment of our community and (3) fight for workers rights. Many establishments in our area have signed this pledge.

Members of Three Parks Independent Democrats would like the club to work with other organizations in our community to make the Upper West Side sweatshop free. Please read the resolution below. It will be presented for a vote at the May 11 club meeting.

### **SWEATSHOP FREE UPPER WEST SIDE**

WHEREAS, sweatshops still exist on the Upper West Side in restaurants, nail salons and other businesses, despite labor laws designed to prevent them,

WHEREAS, sweatshop conditions include, but are not limited to, failure to pay minimum wage and overtime pay, tip stealing, discrimination, and illegal firing and retaliation when workers who stand up for their rights to organize,

WHEREAS, immigrant or U.S.-born workers are being forced to work longer hours for less pay with fewer benefits under unsafe and unhealthy conditions while employers continue to make profits,

WHEREAS, sweatshop bosses bring down working conditions and standards for all workers by creating a race to the bottom and undermining employers who do comply with the labor laws,

WHEREAS, in 2010, workers at Saigon Grill won a \$4.6 million wage and hour settlement from the previous owners, who were sent to prison. The new owners said they would comply with labor laws, but soon after reopening last fall, they broke these promises. They fired the older workers, and when the wait staff protested, they were fired too. In retaliation for trying to unionize, the delivery boys are being overstaffed, so no one can make any money. There is ongoing picketing and a boycott of this restaurant.

WHEREAS, a coalition of neighborhood organizations is asking restaurants, nail salons and other businesses to pledge to (1) be sweatshop free, (2) promise to uphold decent labor conditions for the enrichment of our community and (3) fight for workers rights. Many establishments in our area have signed this pledge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats unequivocally opposes sweatshop restaurants, nail salons and other businesses that do not comply with current labor laws and will work with other organizations in our community to make the Upper West Side sweatshop free.

Don't want to eat in a sweatshop? Here is a list of restaurants that have already signed the pledge and are sweatshop free.

Flor De Mayo Restaurant - 2651 Broadway  
Flor De Mayo Restaurant - 484 Amsterdam Ave.

Mama Mexico Restaurant - 2672 Broadway  
Sol Y Sombra Restaurant - 462 Amsterdam Ave.  
Famous Amadeus Pizza - 616 Amsterdam Ave.  
Popover Cafe - 551 Amsterdam Ave.  
Samad's Gourmet - 2867 Broadway  
Las Palomas - 219 W 100th St.  
Artie's Deli - 2290 Broadway  
Campo - 2888 Broadway Tom's Restaurant - 2880 Broadway -  
New Dragon Wall Restaurant - 906 Columbus Ave.  
The Neighborhood - 936 Amsterdam Ave.  
Bistro Ten 18, restaurant/bar - 1018 Amsterdam Ave.

### **Condolences**

Three Parks Independent Democrats extends condolences to the family and friends of Allison Pinsley, a former club member and city resident.

### **State Committee Report**

Daniel Marks Cohen, State Committeeman, 69<sup>th</sup> AD

There is some movement on the State Committee – a meeting has been scheduled for May 19 in Suffolk County, Long Island. And the latest word on the street about the new State chairman is that it is going to be Charlie King, currently the Executive Director and a former CFD District Leader, replacing current chairman Jay Jacobs. This has been much discussed but not confirmed for months, and if true, at least it finally resolves the leadership issue for the State Party. Like many of us on the West Side, I have known Charlie since his Upper West Side days, and it will be helpful to have a connection to the leadership. The Reform Caucus has met a few times since our last meeting in September, and we are proposing a few resolutions, including ethics reform and extending the natural gas fracking moratorium that expires this summer. The proposal for ethics reform entails the NYSDC asking the Governor and both Houses of the Legislature to enact the creation of a new ethics agency:

1. The agency will oversee single, unified system charged with investigating and adjudicating ethical misdeeds committed by members of all branches of state government and lobbyists.
2. The agency's governing board will be appointed by a broad, multi-stage process that ensures that its members do not have personal or institutional ties with those whose conduct it oversees. Current and recent lobbyists, state officials, and state employees will not be eligible for membership.
3. The agency must have the power to enforce high ethical standards, including the authority to conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, impose sanctions, audit disclosure statements, and make criminal referrals as well as sufficient staff and funding to carry out its mission.

4. All statewide legislators should be required to disclose both the sources and the amounts of all outside income.

I will keep you informed about its progress in the State Committee next month.

Also just this past month, together with CFD's District Leader Joan Paylo and my predecessor, former State Committeeman Larry Hirsch, we joined a few dozen activists to follow up on the Justice Will be Served rally protesting the mistreatment of the employees at Saigon Grill the previous month that was organized with the help of Three Parks' own Barbara Lee. This time we targeted businesses on the Upper West Side, asking them to join us in a campaign to make the neighborhood "Sweatshop Free" and comply with existing labor laws enacted to ensure fair treatment of workers. Working in teams, my team was able to contact over a dozen businesses during an hour. In total the entire group got over a dozen businesses to commit to joining the campaign (including the new place called "The Neighborhood" on the corner of 106<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam Avenue – so please patronize them if you have not done so already).

### **Stop Poisoning Our Planet, Water, and Air!** by Merle McEldowney

How long are we going to rely on sources of energy that poison our planet? How long are we going to respond to the greed of big oil and gas for our energy needs? How long will it take us to invest in renewable energy sources?

Burning coal was dirty so we switched to oil. We are dependent on foreign oil so we are switching to gas. Gas may "burn" cleaner than oil, but getting it out of the ground generates more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Getting the amount of gas we need out of the ground is fraught with danger. Drinking water is being polluted around the country as a result of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Polluted water puts our health and our food supply at serious risk. The mayor of New York City does not want hydraulic fracturing in our watershed, but he wants to convert NYC to natural gas.

The United States is now beginning a new dependence on another fossil fuel. The "Nat Gas Act," S1408 and HR 1380, creates tax incentives – \$1 billion a year for five years – to encourage manufacturers to begin building heavy-duty trucks that will be powered by natural gas instead of diesel. It also gives tax incentives to truck-stop owners who will install natural gas filling stations to help create the infrastructure. The bill, also called the "Pickens plan," has been heavily encouraged by T. Boone Pickens.

The law is considered to be bipartisan and is supported by President Obama. It will certainly pass in the House of Representatives. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand have not endorsed this law as of now. We need to make certain the Senate does not pass this bill!

A new gas power plant is being built in Queens for \$1.4 billion. The Spectra Oil Company wants to build a 30-inch gas pipeline extending from New Jersey to lower Manhattan to Staten Island and back to Bayonne, New Jersey. In its application, it states: "The NJ-NY Project will provide access to ... new sources of natural gas supplies in **the Marcellus Shale basin.**"

Where will we get the gas for the trucks, and the filling stations to keep the trucks full of gas, and the power plant, and the pipeline? Much of it will come from "fracked" gas.

We need to tell Michael Bloomberg and the rest of our elected officials, that we do not want to become dependent on another fossil fuel that will poison our environment. We do not want to convert our trucks from oil to fracked gas. We need to tell our elected officials that we are finished with polluting fossil fuels and we want investment in renewable energy.

The Nat Gas Act wants to invest five billion dollars to make trucks run on natural gas. What else could we do with five billion dollars? How much would transfer stations cost to make wind farms possible? Could we perfect the science to take advantage of the constant and reliable tides from the two rivers that surround Manhattan? Could we learn to harness and store the power of the sun? The list of possible technology to make use of renewable resources is endless. Would it be easier than going to the moon? It certainly would be much bigger step for mankind.

As a club and as individuals we need to tell our elected officials we do not want to poison our air and water with hydraulic fracturing. Tell them you know that there is not enough gas from sources that do not fracture the earth with poisoned water. Tell our elected officials that we want our city and state and federal government to invest in renewable resources!

### **Election Results for Judicial Delegate and Alternates**

Elected as Judicial Delegates were Theresa Canter, Alan Flacks, Corine Pettey, and Milivoy Samurovich.

Elected as Judicial Delegate Alternates were Elizabeth Kellner, Marie Lunn, Bruce Markens, and Stephanie Tegnazian.

# VOTER LIST THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

## Eligible Voters May 2011

Adler	Cyrus
Andrew	Ralph
Bailey	Mollie
Baldwin	William
Baldwin	Susan J.
Baldwin	Emily
Beason	Catherine
Beels	Margret
Benmosche	Shoshannah
Botfeld	Bob
Brancato	Vincent
Camacho	David
Cannataro	Anthony
Canter	Theresa
Cohen	Dan
Colgan	Alex J.
Dannett	Wendy
Davenport	John
Doty	Cynthia
Draynel	Renna
Evangelist	Bernadette
Fifer	Gerry Ann
Flacks	Alan
Flax	Ellen
Freeman	Jill
Gallagher	Ernestine
Geissman	Mary J.
Gerard	Daniele
Gilbert	Louisa
Ginsberg	Robert
Ginsberg	Simon
Gomez	Pilar
Gould	Bonnie
Gumbs	Robert
Haridopolos	Adam
Harvilchuck	Janet
Huey	Jacqueline
Jorgensen	Ulla
Kaplan	David C.
Katz	Michael
Kellner	Elizabeth Krob
Kellner	Douglas
Kimmich	Erlend
Koenig	Jerry
Kogelman	David
Korman	Iris J.
Laufer	Kenneth
Lazarus	David
Lee	Barbara
Leinwall	Gail
Leopold	Lynn
Levy	Estelle
Lunn	Marie

Malcolm
Markens
Marks
Max
Max
McEldowney
Medwedew
Mehler
Mehler
Meister
Meyers
Miller
Morand
Morgan
Mullins
Newell
Niederman
Ogden
Pepper
Petty
Phillips
Pinsley
Podrasky
Prochazka
Puccetti-Hepner
Riley
Rubin
Samelson
Samuels
Samurovich
Samurovich
Samurovich
Scalise
Schreiber
Schwartz
Sher
Sher
Shirazi
Shirazi
Shrier
Speiser
Spiro
Spitz
Stearns
Stearns
Taylor
Tegnazian
Thomas
Thomas
Thompson
Tulloch
Vargas
Voorhis
Vulliemoz

Betsy
Bruce
Mary Ann
Stephen
Lynn Bender
Merle
Alex
Dorothy
Ernest
Minda
Gail
Batya
Martin
Brenda
Derrick
John
Adele
Joan
Josh
Corine
Geraldine
Russell
Rose
Lisa Anne
Florence
Nathan
Jonathan
Suzanne
K.
Liz
Christine
Milivoy
Carl Joseph
Doris
Ray
Barry N.
Jacob
Ann
Ahmad
Irene
Mildred
Anna Lee
Alan
Roschel Holland
Michael
Clara
Stephanie
Lynn
Deborah
Jane
Ken
Ruben
George
Yvonne

Williams	Rosetta
Williams	Lauren A.
Wisdom	Jane
Wood	Judy
Worrell	Vernita
Zeche	Gloria
Zucker	Tamar
Zucker	Marlene
Zucker-Brull	Ariel

## Voters Eligible if Paid May 2011

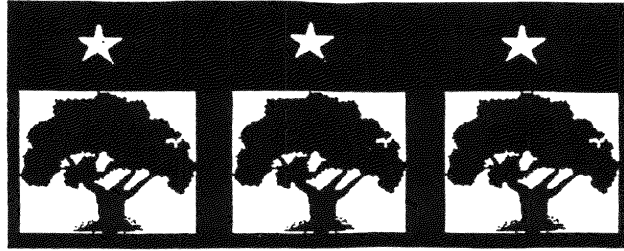
Andrews	Susan
Bardin	Robert
Benowitz	Marcia
Caputo	Isabella
De Seta	Maxine
Garcia	Martina
Gomez	Elizabeth
Lavin	Marguerite
Leuze	Robert
Levinson	Joan
Mehlman	Arlene
Reisner	Carol
Sarver	Eugene
Segal	Judy

### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELIGIBLE VOTERS**

In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2011 and have attended at least one meeting in the last six months.

Members who were paid for 2010 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2011 dues

New memberships become effective thirty days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the thirty-day period and within six months of the election. Memberships that have lapsed prior to 2010 are considered new.



*THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS*

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

Please pay your 2011 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting  
or by mailing it with your check to:

*Three Parks Independent Democrats  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
New York, N.Y. 10025  
Attn: Treasurer*

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## 2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

*New Member* \_\_\_\_\_

*Renewal* \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter via email.**

**\*\*\*\*Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal--cash and money orders are far more difficult to process. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2011"\*\*\*\***

*Three Parks Independent Democrats*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
New York, N.Y. 10025

**NEXT MEETINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th  
Health Care Under Attack**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25th  
Elected Officials' Updates  
Civil Court Candidates & Endorsement Vote**